

Application No. 10/785,531
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 13, line 22 as follows:

The connector 10 also includes a locking structure 24 to enable the semi-cylindrical members 12, 14 to be securely locked to one another. As shown in FIGS. 3 and 4, the locking structure 24 includes a pivotable locking lever 26 arranged on the semi-cylindrical member 12 at the free edge 12b (the term "at" is used to mean on, near or proximate), a tension lever 28 connected to the locking lever 26, and a projection 30 formed on the semi-cylindrical member 14 with a groove 32 which opens toward, i.e., faces away from, the free edge 14b of the semi-cylindrical 14. The locking lever 26 may be pivotally mounted to a mounting bracket 25 which is attached to the semi-cylindrical member 12.

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 24, line 2 as follows:

FIG. 7A also shows the possibility of providing axially extending ridges 38 on the outer surface of the semi-cylindrical members 42, 44, specifically the conduit engagement portion 48 of semi-cylindrical member 42 and the conduit engagement and extension portions 54, 58 of semi-cylindrical member 44. Also the extension portion 58 is provided with openings 60 which can be

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made without subtracting from the strength of the connector 40.
From FIGS. 7 and 7A, it can also be seen that locking flanges 34 are provided on only the conduit engagement portions 48, 54 and are spaced apart from the free, axial edges of the respective conduit engagement portion 48, 54. Moreover, it can be seen in FIG. 7A that extension portion 58 extends axially outward from conduit engagement portion 54 in a direction away from vent engagement portion 52 to thereby provide semi-cylindrical member 44 with a larger axial length than semi-cylindrical member 12, which lacks such an extension portion. In view of this axial length variation, a conduit 6 engaging with semi-cylindrical members 42, 44 via conduit engagement portions 48, 54 can be bent away from the extension portion 58 (see FIG. 8).

Please amend the Abstract as follows, a clean version of the proposed substitute Abstract is provided on the following sheet:

Connector for connecting a pair of tubular components together, such as a pair of exhaust conduits of a dryer or an exhaust conduit of a dryer to a dryer vent or wall-mounted vent sleeve, including a pair of generally semi-cylindrical members each having a first, coupled edge and a second, free edge and rotatably connected together at the coupled edge, e.g., by a hinge, and separable from one another at the free edge. A quick connect/~~quick~~ connect/quick disconnect locking structure is

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arranged in connection with the semi-cylindrical members for
locking them to one another with the free edges opposite one
another.